

Integrating community data into DHIS2

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Overview of country's context

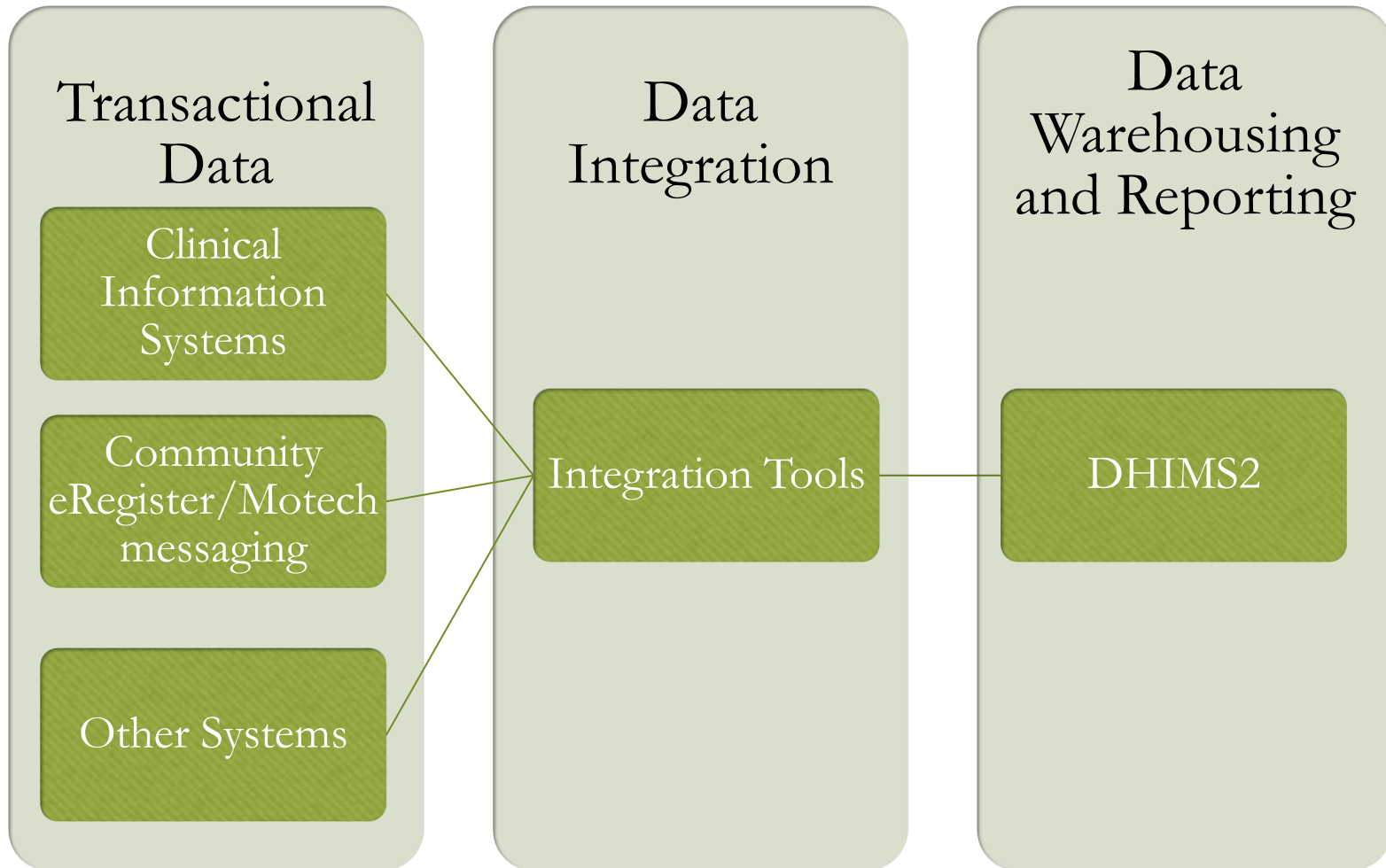
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The primary function of the health information system is to provide data that enhance decision-making in the delivery of health services.

In recent years, Ghana has migrated from an entirely paper-based approach to a near electronic approach of health information management. This has made it easy for data integration.

Data from all community health service delivery points, health facilities and services provided at other health delivery points are integrated into a common system to make data readily available for effective decision making.

GHS HIMs STRATEGY



Summary of the approach

- Community Based Attendants (CBA's) are given training to manage minor ailments such as malaria, acute respiratory tract infection and diarrhea in communities under the supervision of a qualified health professional. This system of health approach is used in communities with limited health facilities to support the health care delivery
- The CBA's use standardized registers to record all their routine activities.

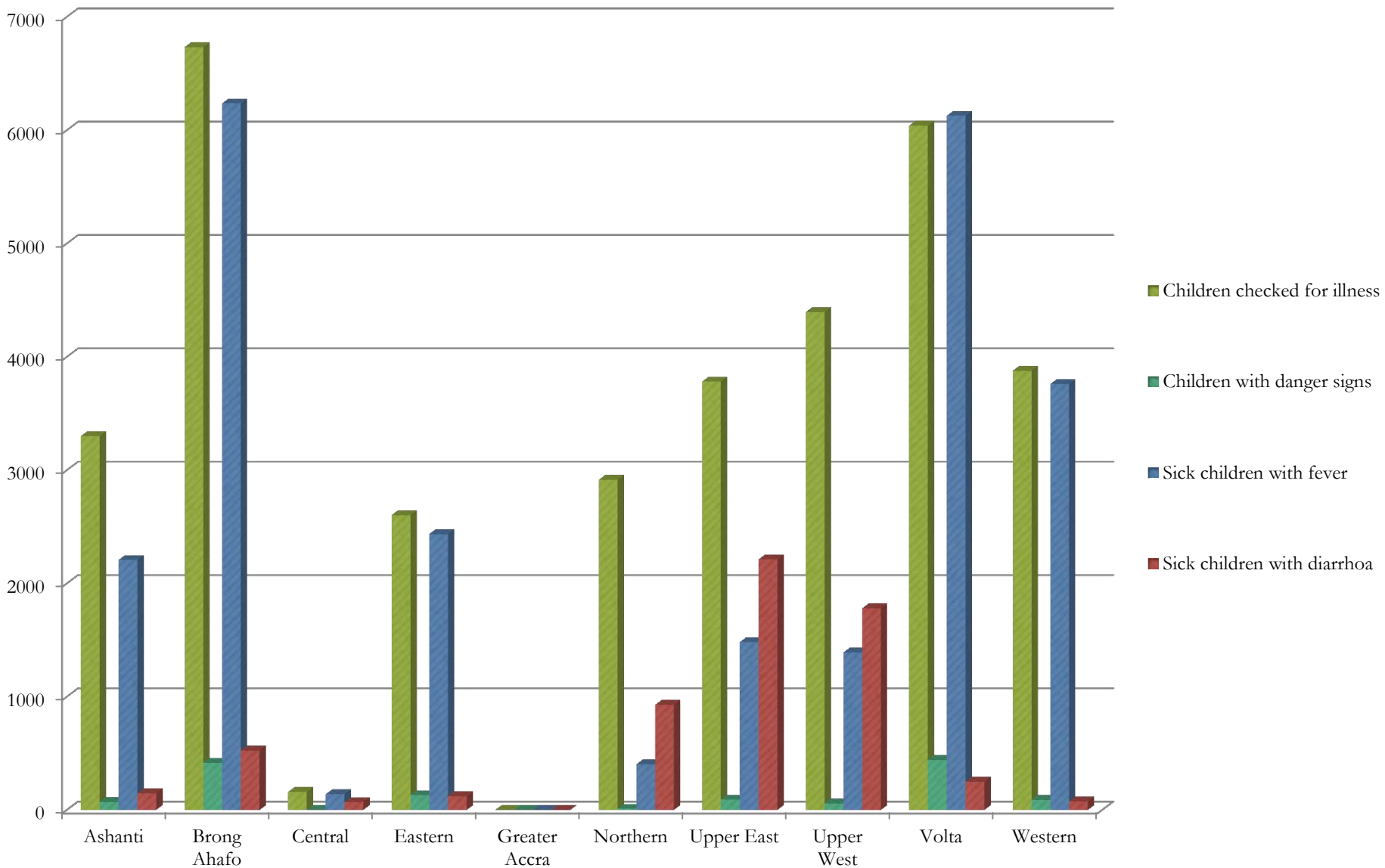
Summary of the approach

- Monthly, the data is collated and reported with standardized reporting forms and submitted to the health professional supervising the CBA for review and approval.
- The reporting form is then sent to the district office. The data is then validated by the district data validation team and keyed into the DHIMS2 application.

Summary of approach cont....

- The data once keyed into the application at the district becomes available to the region.
- The region also has a validation team which further validates the data and signs it off for its use at the national level.
- In the year 2013, a total of 15295 CBA's were trained in the management of minor ailments and also to support maternal and child health. Another 4345 traditional birth attendants (TBA's) were also trained on modern methods of conducting safe deliveries to help reduce maternal and infant mortalities

The next slide displays an example of some of the reports which can be generated using the DHIMS2 application.



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When and How the data is used

- The data is used by managers monthly in assessing the performance of the community based attendants.
- The data generated by the CBA's have been used by some districts in the northern region to identify some training needs for the CBA's
- Stock (drugs and non-drugs) management and resource allocation is also highly dependent on the data collected at the end of each quarter
- The data provides information on what interventions are needed to improve community health care delivery
- The early detection and management of communicable diseases is also made possible using the information gathered from the CBA's

Key challenges.....

- Nationwide internet connectivity is a major challenge. This is because DHIMS2 is a web-based application.
- The existence of other parallel forms of reporting with results in duplication of data in reports also accounts for data inconsistencies due to increased workload on officers
- Frequent changes in data and information needs by partners and other stakeholders results in the frequent changing of reporting formats that causes challenges in data quality.
- Inadequate training for officers on the use of the application
- The absence of a standard operating procedure which clearly defines all data elements and indicators to guide officer in the management of health information

Lessons learnt

- The need to eliminate all forms of parallel reports to reduce the workload on officers to reduce data inconsistency
- The need to have a standard operation procedure to serve as a guide for all officers in the management of health information.
- Include DHIMS2 in all trainings to strengthen capacity in the use of the application.
- The need to adopt electronic transactional data collection applications to reduce human intervention in data transmission

Thank you

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